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ABSTRACT

Issues in school choice are addressed, with a focus on Minnesota. The first chapter presents a rationale in support of school choice, examining school choice as a catalyst for change based on American values. Outcomes of choice include parent influence over state allocation of resources and changes in the roles and responsibilities of educators, students, and the community. Chapter 2 offers conditional support for choice, mitigated by a concern that choice may replace adequate funding. Conditions under which the National Education Association would endorse choice are presented, as well as an appraisal of existing approaches and summaries of three NEA-sponsored experiments in Harlem, New York; Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Richmond, California. The third chapter summarizes the major litigation issues in eight states--Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Utah, and Washington--and analyzes the pros and cons of the following issues: desegregation, space, timelines, transportation, voluntary/compulsory participation, state aid, consumer information, special needs students, evaluation, and grievance procedures. Chapter 4 offers a case study of Minnesota's choice programs and strategies. Two major challenges are discussed in the final chapter: (1) implementation and evaluation; and (2) new roles and responsibilities of administrators, policy makers, and practitioners. The appendix contains NEA criteria for developing and implementing choice plans. (42 references) (LMI)

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